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Hot Watts

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

To save energy this month, try lowering your water heating costs. Water heating accounts for 14 to 25 percent of the energy you consume. Turn the water heater's temperature to the warm setting, which is around 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will save energy – and help you save on your monthly bill.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Congratulations!

Tara Jeremiah is our online survey winner.



CHEC offices will be closed November 27th and 28th in observance of Thanksgiving

America Needs a Common Sense Solution

Six hundred pages plus another 1,000 of supporting documents—that's the length of the latest proposal from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It would amend the Clean Air Act (only 465 pages) to limit carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the power plants on which we rely today.

Besides the actual rule, a lot also has been written about its legality, feasibility and complexity. But lost in the shuffle of thousands of pages is the impact on people. How much will electric bills increase? Will manufacturers relocate? How many jobs will be lost? Which power plants will be forced to shut down?

These are difficult questions. But they're important questions. At Cookson Hills Electric (CHEC), we work hard to keep your electricity affordable and reliable. That's why we're asking the EPA for answers to these and many other questions.

We don't want you to get lost in the shuffle. We put our members first and we advocate for you. We see you every month paying your bill at the office. We know when times are tough. We live and work in the community with you.

After all, you govern us. Our board members and community leaders are one in the same. We're as local as any organization and we like it that way.

That's why we keep reminding the bureaucrats in Washington, DC, that the rules they write have an impact in the real world – where we live. That's why we've encouraged everyone to take 30 seconds to

sign up at www.Action.coop and tell the EPA we cannot afford these regulations.

Please raise your voice. Together, we can tell the EPA that support for the environment and a true all-of-the-above energy policy are not mutually exclusive.

Together we'll remind regulators and lawmakers that the impact new rules and laws have on people should be their first thought, not their last.

And we have a big family, with more than 900 electric cooperatives in the country backing us up. One million voices have already come together to dispute the EPA's proposal.

Thank you.

1,000,000

Congratulations, co-op advocates! Across the nation, you have sent 1 million comments to the EPA, making your voice heard.



➔ We can't stop here! Visit WWW.ACTION.COOP today!

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Headquarters Office
PO Box 539 • 1002 E. Main
Stigler, OK 74462
800-328-2368

Branch Office
PO Box 587 • 1800 KOA/Power Drive
Sallisaw, OK 74955
918-775-2211

Pay-by-Phone: 1-888-678-1937
www.cooksonhills.com



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Donna Rhodes, *Editor*
E-Mail: drhodes@cooksonhills.com

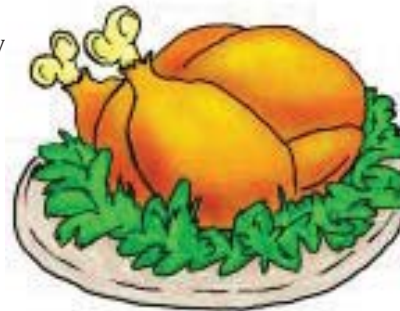


If You Find Your Account Number
Hidden in This Issue of the *Hot Watts*
You'll Receive a \$25 Credit on
Your Electric Bill

Holiday Cooking Safety Tips

The kitchen is the heart of the home. Sadly, it's also where two out of every five home fires start. Many home fires occur during what's supposed to be the happiest time of the year – the holidays. Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas hold a tradition of cooking, and safety should always be considered in the kitchen. As we embark on the holiday season, CHEC and the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) urge you to use these simple safety tips to identify and correct potential kitchen hazards:

- Never leave cooking equipment unattended, and always remember to turn off burners if you have to leave the room.
- Supervise the little ones closely in the kitchen. Make sure children stay at least three feet away from all cooking appliances.
- Prevent potential fires by making sure your stovetop and oven are clean and free of grease, dust, and spilled food.
- Remember to clean the exhaust hood and duct over your stove on a regular basis.
- Keep the cooking area around the stove and oven clear of combustibles such as towels, napkins, and potholders.
- Always wear short or close-fitting sleeves 689502 when cooking. Loose clothing can catch fire.
- To protect from spills and burns, use the back burners and turn the pot handles in, away from reaching hands.
- Locate all appliances away from the sink.
- Plug countertop appliances into ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)-protected outlets.
- Keep appliance cords away from hot surfaces like the range or toaster.
- Unplug the toaster and other countertop appliances when not in use.
- Be sure to turn off all appliances when cooking is completed.



For more important safety tips to keep you and your family safe this holiday season and throughout the year, visit www.esfi.org.



Be wise to guy wires.

Did you know that guy wires on power poles provide grounding as well as support? Damaging a guy wire can cause an electric current disruption, creating a dangerous situation.

Observe the 10-foot rule to stay clear of guy wires and overhead power lines. If a guy wire is disrupted or broken, do not try to fix it yourself. Call the professionals at your electric cooperative.

66th Annual Meeting a Huge Success

CHEC held their 66th Annual Meeting on the beautiful fall morning of October 4. A total of 1,187 registered members were in attendance, with over 1,300 family members, friends, and guests joining those registered members for the festivities.

The Ritter's Family Band from Vian once again provided excellent entertainment with an assorted genre of music. John Speir, Roland Junior High School Principal, represented our country well with his a cappella rendition of our national anthem. Following the business meeting, prizes were awarded to 45 CHEC members.

Congratulations to each of our prize winners! From the CHEC Board of Trustees, Management, and employees, we thank you for being a loyal member and for your attendance at this year's meeting!



CHEC Trustee Rocky Woods Sr. congratulates Grand Prize Winners Mr. & Mrs. Claudie Waldrop. Mr. Waldrop became a member of CHEC on October 17, 1950.



Brooklyn Higgins wins a V-Tech Learning Tablet

Photos by: Denise Craighead and Donna Rhodes

Thank you to our contractors and vendors who graciously donated many of the prizes awarded.

Gordon Construction Co., Inc.
KAMO Power
Wolf Tree Company
Wright Tree Service, Inc.
D & R Electric Inc.
Utility Sales Agents of Oklahoma
Huxford Pole & Timber Company

C.H. Guernsey & Company
HD Supply Company
Northwest Transformer Company
Wesco (Diversified Electric)
Acme Janitor & Chemical Supply
Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Co-op Connections®

— The free membership card that gives you discounts on everyday expenses —

CHEC is a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, and one of the benefits of that alliance is the Co-op Connections program. As a CHEC member you receive the Co-op Connections card absolutely free.

The holidays are upon us, so there is no better time than now to use your Co-op Connections card. Present the card to participating local and national businesses to receive special discounts. The Healthy Savings benefit offers significant savings in health care costs for card members including discounts for prescriptions, dental, and more. Earn cash back shopping online through the Cash Back Mall. You can obtain valuable coupons and more through the program.

A mobile app is now available for Android and Apple devices. The mobile app provides information about our co-op; deals for local, regional and national businesses; your deals and information about the Co-op Connections program.

Simply stop by one of our offices to obtain a card or visit our website at www.cooksonhills.com. Our website contains a list of participating local businesses and information about the program.



Cash Back Mall



Mobile app for Android and Apple devices

WATT'S COOKING?



Pumpkin Pecan Rum Cake

(A must-bake cake for the fall season) *by Dana Davis*

Preheat oven to 325. Grease and flour Bundt pan. Sprinkle nuts over bottom.

Combine flour, pumpkin pie spice, baking soda and salt in bowl. Beat butter, brown sugar and sugar in large mixer bowl until light and fluffy. Add eggs. Beat well. Add pumpkin and vanilla extract; beat again. Add flour mixture to pumpkin mixture a little at a time, mixing well after each addition. Spoon batter into prepared pan.

Bake for 60-70 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes. Make holes in cake with long pick. Pour half of the glaze over warm cake. Let stand 10 minutes to soak in. Invert onto cake platter. Make holes

in top of cake and pour remaining glaze over top.

RUM BUTTER GLAZE

Melt ¼ C. butter or margarine in saucepan. Stir in ½ C. sugar and 2 Tbsp. water. Bring to boil. Remove from heat and stir in 2-3 Tbsp. rum, or 1 tsp. rum extract.



If you have a recipe you would like to share, please email it to drhodes@cooksonhills.com. You may also drop it off or mail it to one of our offices.